

# The Mail-Only Ballot

Elections Task Force

April 21, 2006

# Task Force Objectives

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- to study and make recommendations regarding conducting elections in the City of San Diego by mail-only ballot
- to report to the Rules Committee for feedback on and approval of Task Force recommendations prior to presentation to full Council

# Study/Report Timeline

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## Mail-Only Ballot

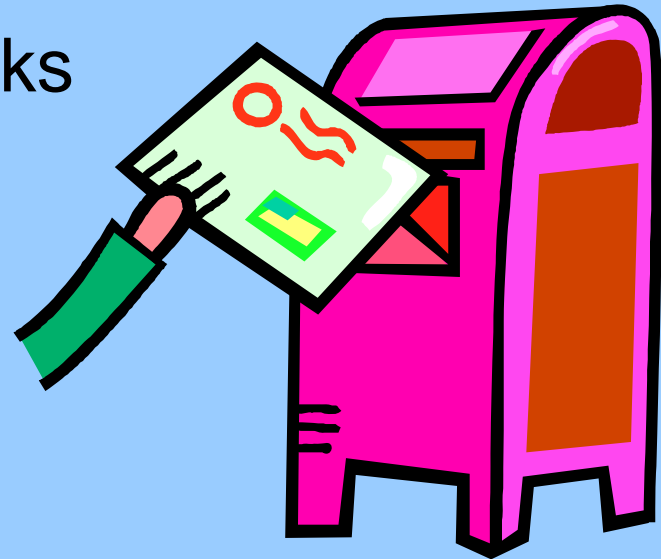
Research – 4 weeks

Discussion/Report – 3 weeks

Docketing – 1 week

TOTAL – 8 weeks

Rules: June 21, 2006



# How Does Mail-Only Work?

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- Ballots are mailed, not distributed at a traditional polling place
- Ballot is voted
- Ballot is returned to the election office (ROV) to be counted



# Topics for Study

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## Mail-Only Ballot Advantages:

- ☐ **Enacted via Ordinance for special elections**
- ☐ **Savings of 30-50%?**
- ☐ **Increase in voter participation?**
- ☐ **Removes barriers keeping people from polls?**
- ☐ **Other?**

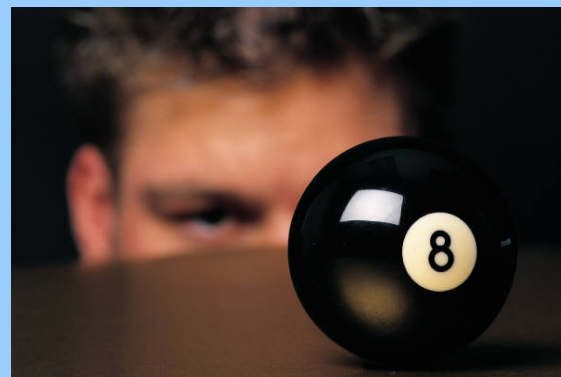


# Topics for Study

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## Mail-Only Ballot Disadvantages:

- ☐ Delivery problems, outgoing: transient voters/ undeliverable ballots/junk mail?
- ☐ Delivery problems, incoming: impact on number of late-returned ballots?
- ☐ Undue influence?
- ☐ Other?



# Topics for Study

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## Benchmark Jurisdictions

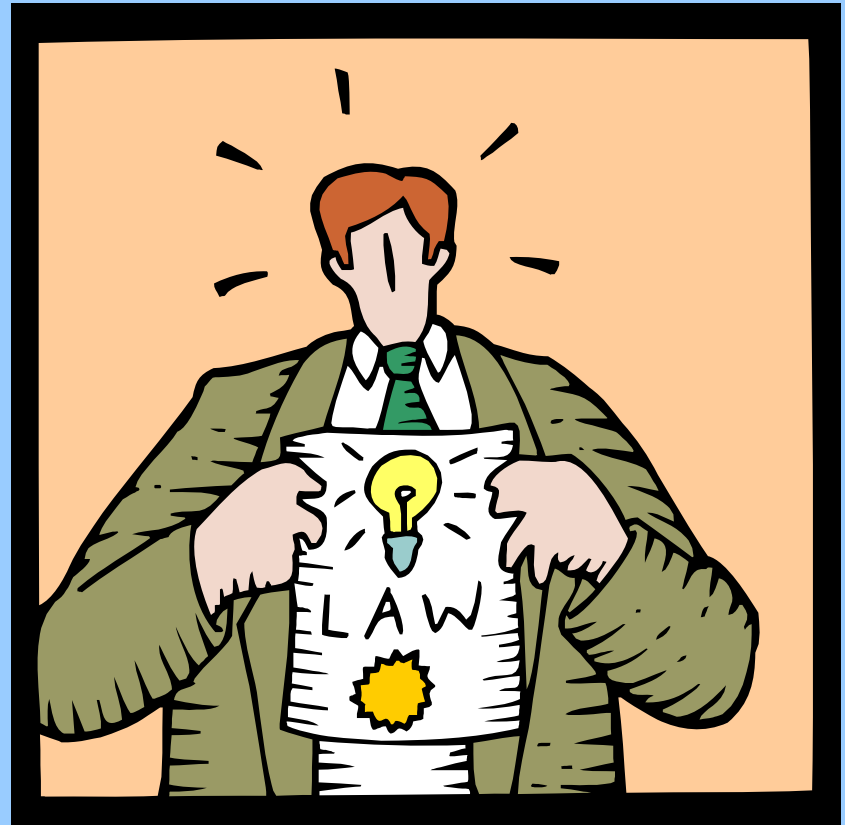
- ☐ Santa Cruz, CA
  - ☐ Fort Collins, CO
  - ☐ San Mateo County, CA
  - ☐ Los Angeles County, CA
  - ☐ King County, WA
  - ☐ State of Oregon
- 
- ☐ San Diego, CA (1981)



# Topics for Study

Legal Limitations,  
New Language

- 📖 State Law
- 📖 City Charter
- 📖 Municipal Code





# Topics for Study

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What would the procedure be?

- ☑ What are the special needs of a mail-only ballot election?
- ☑ Who would/could do what?
- ☑ Under what circumstances?
- ☑ Under what circumstances not?
- ☑ Timeline?
- ☑ Other?



# Topics for Study

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## Our Stakeholders

- ☺ How many are already voting by mail?
- ☺ Are the rest willing to vote by mail?
- ☺ How can we best address concerns?
- ☺ How do we get the word out about a mail-only ballot?



# Summary of Study Topics

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1. Advantages/Disadvantages
2. Benchmark Jurisdictions
3. Legal Limitations/Language
4. Determining the Procedure
5. Stakeholder Issues

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